

## Message Text

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14

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

TRSE-00 SAJ-01 EB-07 OMB-01 AID-05 LAB-04 SIL-01

COME-00 /077 W

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R 101800Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1726

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 20148

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ECON, EFIN, IT

SUBJECT: GOI OFFICIALS TERM PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT

TO U.S. SUCCESSFUL

1. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATIONS CHARGE AND ECOMIN RESPECTIVELY DISCUSSED PRIME MINISTER ANDREOTTI'S OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES DEC 6-7 WITH TWO SENIOR OFFICIALS WHO ACCOMPANIED HIM, MINISTER LA ROCCA (DIPLOMATIC ADVISOR TO THE PRIME MINISTER) AND AMBASSADOR MONDELLO (DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, FOREIGN MINISTRY). BOTH OFFICIALS EXPRESSED FULL SATISFACTION WITH RESULTS OF VISIT, STATING THAT IT ACCOMPLISHED ALL OF THE GOI'S GOALS, WHICH WERE UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES SOMEWHAT LIMITED. WHILE NEITHER QUOTED ANDREOTTI DIRECTLY, BOTH ASSERTED THAT THE PRIME MINISTER SHARED THEIR VIEW. APART FROM PLEASURE OVER OUTCOME OF SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS, MONDELLO WAS PARTICULARLY IMPRESSED WITH WARMTH OF OFFICIAL RECEPTION AS TYPIFIED BY THE WHITE HOUSE STATE DINNER.

2. MONDELLO REPORTED THAT ANDREOTTI BROUGHT BACK WITH HIM TWO CONCLUSIONS. FIRST, HE LEARNED THAT BOTH THE IMF AND U.S. HOLD VERY STRONG VIEWS ON NECESSITY FOR GOI TO TAKE MEANINGFUL MEASURES TO BRING ITALIAN ECONOMY OUT OF PRESENT SITUATION; IN PARTICULAR, HE FOUND IMF AND U.S. INSISTENT ON NECESSITY TO BRING ABOUT REDUCTION IN RISING UNIT LABOR COSTS. SECONDLY, AS A CONSEQUENCE, HE HAS RETURNED TO ITALY WITH DETERMINATION TO REDOUBLE HIS EFFORTS TO OBTAIN AGREEMENT

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TO MEASURES TO REDUCE UNIT LABOR COSTS (PRESUMABLY EITHER

THROUGH LABOR-MANAGEMENT NEGOTIATION OR THROUGH DIRECT GOVERNMENT ACTION.

3. BOTH LA ROCCA AND MONDELLO EXPRESSED RELIEF AND SATISFACTION OVER COVERAGE OF THE VISIT BY ITALIAN MEDIA. MONDELLO FELT THAT PRESS HAD SHOWN FOREBEARANCE IN AVOIDING CRITICISM DURING AND AFTER VISIT. TO CONSIDERABLE EXTENT, ITALIAN PRESS WORKED OFF ITS CRITICISM BEFORE VISIT, WHEN MANY PAPERS CRITICISED TIMING OF VISIT AND/OR RAISED FALSE HOPES OF TANGIBLE FINANCIAL BENEFITS. DURING AND AFTER VISIT WIDESPREAD PRESS PLAY WAS FACTUAL, COMPLIMENTARY AND SATISFIED WITH RESULTS. BEAUDRY

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